

April 20, 2012

# Weekly Views

Madison Correctional Facility dedicated two buildings at the facility. A housing unit was dedicated in honor of Dana Blank. Ms. Blank worked for several years at the Indiana Women's Prison and was instrumental in changing programming and re-entry for women offenders. The facility also dedicated its recycling building to Bob Dixon, who helped initiate the recycling programs at Putnamville Correctional Facility. (see photo below of Madison Superintendent Jan Davis with Dana Blank and Commissioner Lemmon)

The Reception-Diagnostic Center hosted the Chief Probation Officer of Morgan County and a young woman from the Australian Group Study Exchange Team through Rotary. They toured the facility and learned about corrections in Indiana and the IDOC intake process.

PEN Products staff facilitated the second week of the Offender Workforce Development Training program at the Correctional Training Institute (CTI) in New Castle. 28 participants from Department of Workforce Development, Indiana Department of Correction, Community Corrections, and the Federal Bureau of Prisons have now completed two thirds of the requirements of the training program.

Fifth graders in Daviess and Vermillion County were a captive audience for Wabash Valley Correctional Facility staff, taking part in LEAD activities. Project LEAD (Legal Education to Arrest Delinquency) generated lively discussion and questions from the students about life at Wabash, including the opportunity for positive change. (see photo below of Wabash PLUS Program Coordinator Jacquie Mize)



A Staff Assembly was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility and the facility was honored to have Commissioner Bruce Lemmon in attendance. Facility updates were presented by administrative staff and awards were presented to staff for various achievements. Andy Conrad of the University of Phoenix also attended the assembly to discuss the educational opportunities and options offered by the University.

Staff members and offenders at the Rockville Correctional Facility have joined forces to make blankets and layettes for premature babies in support of the upcoming March of Dimes March for Babies. At this time they have completed approximately 185 items for the project. Members of the offender based Teddy Bear Club have also crocheted and donated approximately 25 hat, scarf and mitten sets to Parke County Healthy Families.

With the arrival of spring, and the end of the semester, come college tours at the facilities. Twenty-five Valparaiso University Criminal Justice students visited the Westville Correctional Facility (WCC). The students were introduced to the facility's Therapeutic Community and allowed to ask questions to selected offender participants. At the other end of the spectrum, the students toured the facility's Maximum Control Unit, giving them insight to the diverse offender population at WCC.

The Correctional Industrial Facility (CIF) held its 10th KAIROS weekend. This KAIROS was a special event, since the group reached out to CIF's Behavioral Modification Unit to attend the ceremony. Over 55 guests attended the closing ceremony.

Officer Miranda Cannan from the Indiana State Prison received the Teamwork Award at a CTI Pre-Service Academy graduation. The instructors nominate an individual who exemplified the highest standards of teamwork by their leadership, positive attitude, and willingness to work with, motivate, and assist others throughout the Pre-Service Academy. Congratulations Ms. Cannan, and welcome to the Indiana Department of Correction!

The Correctional Industrial Facility hosted the Pendleton Correctional Complex Community Advisory Board meeting. Each facility shared information on new and upcoming operations on all three facilities.

A blood drive was conducted at the Pendleton Correctional Facility, sponsored by the Indiana Blood Center, resulting in eleven 11 units of blood being donated by staff.

140 offenders at the Indiana State Prison gathered in the Chapel to watch the Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament Championship Game. The offenders were selected by Unit Team staff based on overall conduct, work performance, and involvement in programming related to self-improvement. The game was broadcast on a large screen and refreshments were served that included hot dogs, nachos and cheese, cookies, and punch. The offenders had a good time and appreciated being given recognition for their positive behavior.